



City of San Marcos

Work Session Meeting Minutes City Council

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

This meeting was held using conferencing software due to Covide-19 rules.

I. Call To Order

With a quorum present, the work session meeting of the San Marcos City Council was called to order by Mayor Hughson at 3:02 p.m. Tuesday, September 1, 2020. The meeting was held virtually.

II. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Council Member Melissa Derrick, Mayor Jane Hughson, Mayor Pro Tem Ed Mihalkanin, Council Member Joca Marquez, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Mark Rockeymoore, Council Member Maxfield Baker and Council Member Saul Gonzales

PRESENTATIONS

1. Receive a presentation, by Emergency Services Consulting International, and hold a discussion on the San Marcos Fire Department's Community Risk Assessment and Standard of Cover study, and provide direction to Staff.

Bert Lumbreras, City Manager provided a brief introduction on the Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover study performed for the Fire Department. Mr. Lumbreras stated the analysis confirms a number of things; that we have a highly capable Fire Department, that is well equipped and trained, and led by strong management. Mr. Lumbreras stated in addition to having a highly-functioning department, our community continues to grow quickly and additional resources and facilities will be necessary to meet department and national standards. Mr. Lumbreras mentioned the City has other characteristics that must be considered including a majority of residential properties being multi-unit or multi-story, a large population of students and low-and moderate-income families, and the mix of retail and distribution facilities. Mr. Lumbreras mentioned a list of recommendations will be presented and not all of the actions can be implemented quickly; however, we can start incorporating them in the plans. Mr. Lumbreras stated that we have a lot of information to go over and turned it over to Fire Chief Les Stephens to introduce the presenter.

Les Stephens, Fire Chief stated this is the first time this kind of study has been done for the Fire Department. Mr. Stephens introduced Sheldon Gilbert, Chief Executive Officer with Emergency Services Consulting International. Mr. Gilbert provided the presentation regarding the San Marcos Fire Department's Community Risk Assessment and Standard of Cover (CRA/SOC) study.

Mr. Gilbert provided the findings of the study being:

- Multiple geographic restriction zones are impacting response times.
- 58% of residential properties are multi-unit and multi-story.
- A large student population combined with low to moderate income families is impacting risk to residents.
- Major distribution and transportation pipeline via Amazon, HEB, and soon to be built SMART terminal.
- Large retail presence with regionally recognized outlets.
- Limited staffing and fire resources to manage large and/or expanding events.

Mr. Gilbert presented the Community Risk Assessment (CRA) and listed the community target hazards

Occupancy/Hazard Area: Description

Large Building: Sprinklered vs Non-Sprinklered MF, HR, > 50,000 square feet

Public Assembly: Churches, Restaurants, Bars, Libraries, Sports Stadiums

Educational: Public/Private K-12, University, Day Care

Medical/Congregate Care: Hospitals, Urgent Care, Dependent Care Facilities

Government: Detention Centers, Jails, Court, Local/State/Federal Offices

Energy Systems: Pipeline, Major Power Grids

Communication: Cell Towers, Radio Towers, Broadcast Facilities

Tier II Facilities: Facilities (Superfund Amendments & Reauthorization Act)

Major Employers: Major Employment Centers

Largest Tax Generators: Facilities with High Sales/Property Tax Contributions

Distribution Centers: Large Distribution and Fulfillment Centers

Dam & Flood Prone Areas: Dam or Levee Sites with Flood-Prone Areas

Wildfire Risk: Wildland-Urban Interface Locations

Mr. Gilbert provided these Findings:

- Multiple geographic restriction zones are impacting response times.
- 58% of residential properties are multi-unit and multi-story.
- A large student population combined with low to moderate income families is impacting risk to residents.
- Major distribution and transportation pipeline via Amazon, HEB, and soon to be built SMART terminal.
- Large retail presence with regionally recognized outlets.

- **Limited staffing and fire resources to manage large and/or expanding events.**

Mr. Gilbert provided the following recommendations:

- **Develop plans to increase community flood resiliency and planning.**
- **Improve thoroughfare conditions to reduce geographic restriction zones.**
- **Adopt a formal risk assessment program to assign risk classifications to occupancies.**
- **Establish a Community Risk Reduction Division.**
- **Establish funding formula within the City budget construct to adequately fund resources to accommodate existing and future growth (see ERF recommendations).**
- **Explore EMS partnership and innovation with San Marcos Hays County EMS (SMHCEMS).**
- **Review monthly and improve call processing times in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1221 standards.**
- **Review, report, and improve turnout times to adopted San Marcos Fire Department performance goal.**

Mr. Gilbert showed maps of fire stations current coverage and with fire station 2 relocated to Centerpoint and fire station 6 added with 3 more proposed fire stations.

Council Member Gonzales expressed concerns about the turnout times and why it's taking long. Chief Stephens stated that the calls are handled through the police department dispatchers and calls are being triaged to ensure the appropriate staff and equipment are sent to each call. Electronic handoff from the dispatch system to the Fire system and the difference in the timing is under review. Police department data shows the fire department is in compliance. Mr. Stephens stated is we know the turnout time appears to be long leaving the station. This could be because it is now a verbal report to state they are en route. They will be looking to do this electronically. Chief Stephens stated they would like to move over to a Motor Data Terminal (MDT) which allows to click a button and to check them out and not verbally.

Council Member Gonzales asked when does the clock start? Chief Stephens stated when the dispatcher answers the call, turnout time begins when the tone is received in the station and when the apparatus leaves the building and another notation is when they arrive. Mr. Gilbert stated it all depends on the turnout time due and if the dispatcher is busy with another call, they may not be clicking the button immediately.

Council Member Derrick asked about the flood resiliency Mr. Stephens stated what will be helpful is to get fire stations on the east side of IH 35. We do try to re-locate equipment to the east side of IH 35 when flooding may be imminent.

Council Member Derrick asked Mr. Lumbreras about saving money on the budget, asked when can the city have more resources for fire support or rely on bond projects for the short term? Mr. Lumbreras stated it is difficult to begin this with FY21 but the bond projects were approved in May 2017, one strategy was to think about the maintenance and operations staffing. Mr. Lumbreras stated can't hire staff right away, however we would need time to hire and train. Having a target incrementally in future years beginning in 2022 and looking forward.

Council Member Derrick asked about the increase hazards in mixed development containing both multifamily and commercial. Mr. Gilbert stated mixed used development brings a good robust community as contributing factors but to the fire department perceive it brings in risks and needs its own profile. Retail under residential requires planning for fire prevention and risk assessment.

Council Member Derrick asked about the Community Risk Reduction Division and will that be done with existing employees or a new division? Mr. Gilbert stated that would be up to city staff and if availability is there for existing staff to take up those duties. It works well with Fire Prevention. Mr. Gilbert mentioned there are specific trainings and standards that would need to be adopted and it needs to be addressed.

Council Member Baker asked what the 12% false calls entails. Mr. Gilbert stated where multi family property has fire alarms and that are fire alarms are reset. Mr. Stephens mentioned Mr. Kistner, Fire Marshal had 4 false calls in a hotel. Mr. Stephens stated in 2020 Fire Code amendments has been added where staff will fine owner for multiple false alarms. Fire department staff arrives at the scene to ensure the findings and all calls are treated as real emergencies until decisions are made that they are not.

Council Member Baker asked about Texas State University and barriers that exist around that? Mr. Stephens stated that about 100 calls per year are at Texas State University and the number of calls related to university students is

higher. There are physical barriers to response are there and city staff works closely with the Texas State University and during new construction. Proximity to the location impacts the response time anywhere.

Mayor Hughson asked why are some areas outside of the city included in the travel times for fire response? Mr. Gilbert stated probably due to the timer software and how far it can get but does include extraterritorial jurisdictions (ETJ) for future projects to be considered.

Mayor Hughson wanted to remind all that when the slide shows 20-21 people that is per shift and to determine the number of staff needed, we need to multiply by the 3 shifts.

Mayor Hughson asked about mixed use buildings and what exactly is the disadvantage or what is special about them regarding fire response. She is not against mixed use, but wants to know what the complexities are. Mr. Gilbert stated first story commercial with multiple floors especially if the commercial includes restaurants. It can be handled, we just need to ensure that all safety measures are in place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Executive Session in accordance with:

A. §Sec.551.071 of the Texas Government Code: Consultation with attorney - to receive advice of legal counsel regarding pending litigation, to wit: The Mayan at San Marcos River, LLC and City of Martindale v. City of San Marcos, Docket No. 04-19-00018-CV in the 4th Court of Appeals of Texas

B. Section 551.071 - Consultation with Attorney - To receive legal advice from the city attorney regarding the city's requirements for connection or extension of utilities to property located outside the city limits of San Marcos.

A motion was made by Council Member Baker, seconded by Council Member Derrick, to enter into Executive Session at 4:07 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

For: 7 - Council Member Derrick, Mayor Hughson, Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin, Council Member Marquez, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rockeymoore, Council Member Baker and Council Member Gonzales

Against: 0

III. Adjournment.

Council returned from Executive Session at 5:36 p.m.

A motion was made by Council Member Derrick, seconded by Council Member Gonzales, to adjourn the work session meeting of the City Council at 5:38 p.m., Tuesday, September 1, 2020. The motion carried by the following vote:

- For:** 4 - Council Member Derrick, Mayor Hughson, Mayor Pro Tem Mihalkanin and Council Member Baker
- Against:** 0
- Absent:** 3 - Council Member Marquez, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Rockeymoore and Council Member Gonzales

Tammy K. Cook, Interim City Clerk

Jane Hughson, Mayor